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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 68, ISSUE NO. 1 | FEBRUARY 13, 2008 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

WHEN IN DOUBT, FOLLOW THE ARROWS

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GOOD BOOKS - Steve McCoy, 26, of Pittsburgh, Calif., is picking up some extra cash as a sign man for the off-campus student bookstore near Valley College. McCoy is paid $10 an hour to alert students to possible savings on their textbooks.

California Votes in Race to the White House

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

While Sen. John McCain's nine-state victory on Super Tuesday has all but made him the Republican Party's front-runner for its presidential nomination, the results of all 24 primaries and caucuses have left Democrats no closer to knowing if Sen. Hillary Clinton or Sen. Barack Obama will represent the party in this fall's general election.

Despite Clinton's (D-NY) wins in delegate-rich states like California and New York, she and Obama (D-Ill.) are virtually tied in the delegate count.

Tuesday's primaries, which saw strong finishes for McCain (R-Ariz.) and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, narrowed the Republican presidential race when former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney suspended his campaign Thursday.

"If this were only about me, I would go on," Romney said at the Conservative Political Action Conference. "But I entered this race because I love America, and because I love America, I feel I must now stand aside, for our party and for our country."

In addition to casting ballots to determine their party's presidential candidate, Los Angeles residents approved Proposition S, which will raise revenue for the city's emergency services through a $243-million phone tax

see *Primary* page 2

Student Files Racial Profiling Complaint

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

A disabled Army veteran and current Valley College student recently filed a complaint with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department alleging that a deputy at Valley targeted him because of his race.

Uriel Eddie, a dental hygiene major, filed the racial profiling complaint last week against Deputy Tom Lynch, the team leader of Valley's Sheriff's Department. Eddie formally met with department supervisors Feb. 5.

The complaint states that Lynch pulled Eddie out of class on Jan. 10 without explanation after campus police received a call about two people who were disrupting classes in the Chemistry Building. According to the complaint, Lynch said to Eddie, "You're black and the guy we are looking for is black, so what do you expect?"

FILE PHOTO

Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch is the subject of a racial profiling complaint lodged by a Valley College student recently.

The issue began after a lab technician called the campus sheriff to report that two people were sticking their heads into classrooms at the west end of the Chemistry Building. The technician, who asked not to be identified, said he received complaints from a teacher and checked the building for the two people before making the call.

"When I saw that they were still there, I came back to my office and called the sheriff's," he said. "They asked me for a description and I told them 'It's a black guy and a white guy. They look young and high-school age. The black guy is wearing green [medical] scrubs and the white guy is wearing a jacket and a knit cap."

The technician said he was asked to repeat the description on two more occasions in person after the call.

According to students, the same two people had also passed Eddie's chemistry class in room 101 at the east end of the building, sometime before the sheriffs' arrival. They interrupted the professor's lecture with their yelling. The room had both doors open and Eddie, who is 38 and had been in class the whole morning, said that he, his classmates and his

see *Profiling* page 2

District Search for Short-Term LAVC Prexy

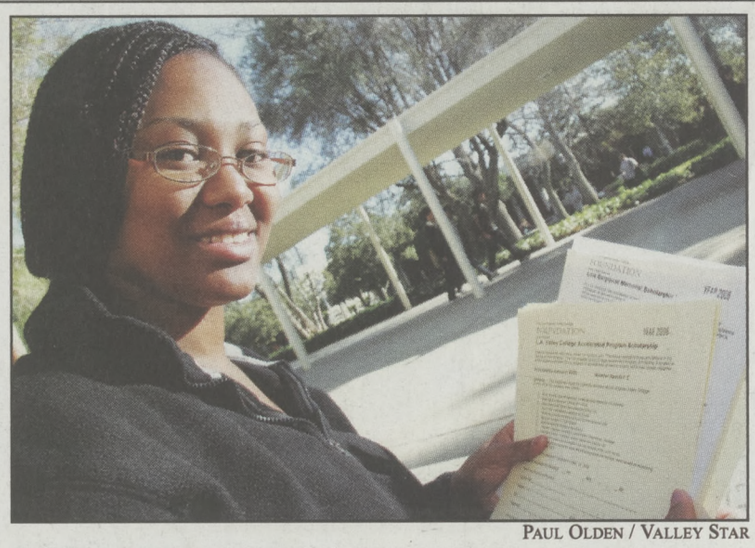
BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

With Valley College President Tyree Wieder retiring on June 30, the search for an interim president to step up by June 1 is already in the works, until a permanent president comes aboard by the beginning of 2009.

"The reason for the acting position is that it takes so long to get a new president and we need somebody in the interim in between the two presidents," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administrative services and search committee member. "Currently, the district has a process of three searches for three colleges and the fourth one would put a great strain on the district office search process."

Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Mark Drummond held the first meeting with representatives from college senior staff, union representatives, the academic senate district, and Senior Vice Chancellor Adriana Barrera on Jan. 29 to devise a plan to begin the search for an acting president. There was another meeting on Feb. 6 to develop a position announcement and set criteria for presidential applicants. For

see *President* page 4



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

GETTING READY FOR HER FUTURE - Valley College nursing student Ceyon Spence, 25, has collected several scholarship forms from the LAVC Foundation Office. She choose health-science, credit union and nusing applications to fill out and submit for consideration.

Spring Scholars Apply Here

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

Students at Valley College will have an easier time paying their tuition and other school expenses thanks to more than 200 scholarship donors.

The scholarships are offered by the Los Angeles Valley College Foundation every spring. The Foundation aims to offer more than $120,000 in scholarships this year, an increase of $10,000 from last spring.

"100 percent of our scholarships are from donors, many of which are alumni or former students," said Raul Castillo, executive director of the Foundation. "Some of our donors are also ex-recipients, so it's great to see that they are paying it forward to our current students."

Last spring, more than 700 students applied for scholarships, and Castillo said that there are several steps you can take to make sure that your submission makes the grade.

"Get your letters of recommendation from faculty as soon as you can," he said. "All applications also require an essay, so make it as personable as possible so the judging committee can make a clear decision."

Castillo also said students should ask for assistance in selecting their applications

see *Scholarships* page 4

The Quest for the Perfect Textbook

BY BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Students have enough to worry about in the first weeks of the semester without the stress of going broke finding their required texts, so I went on the search for the best book bargains that had me fighting crowds on campus, fighting for bargains online and taking my chances with a new bookstore on the block.

I began my hunt for my Math 105 book at Valley's own bookstore, and from the moment I walked into the crowded shop, I began to work up a nervous sweat. Dozens of students were running around with their schedules in hand trying to find someone to help them sort out the complex alphabetical filing system.

When I finally managed to weave my way through the aisles to find my book, it was like finding the lost ark, but the textbook may as well have been made of gold for the $126.00 price tag; there were no used copies to be seen. It also didn't help that the line to pay was near infinite, so I decided to seek out a less panic-filled environment.

As I went to check the ASU sponsored textbook exchange board in Monarch Hall, I was accosted by a very energetic man who handed me a flyer for a new bookstore across the street. After I found no leads for my math book from my fellow students, I decided I would check out the Off-Campus Bookstore, located at 13326 Burbank Blvd. It is just around the corner from Valley College – an easy walk for any student so, of course, I drove.

Let me say that there is no real parking for this bookstore, and I had to put my tenuous parallel parking skills to the test. The store itself is small and looks like a mini-DMV with arrows on the floor to point you in the right line. The staff was very helpful and found me a used copy of my book that cost $88.63, but it looked like it had been attacked by a clan of badgers so I politely declined.

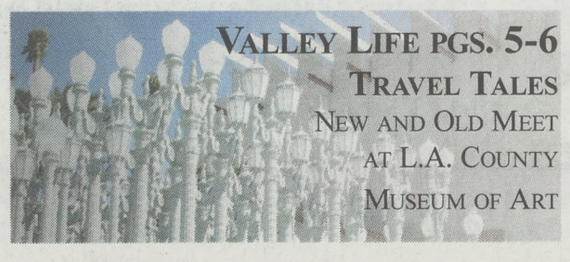
My last refuge was the Internet, where I found the web site CheapestTextBooks.com. Unlike most of the other pages, this one offered the prices from 10 other sites and compared the prices with shipping costs. In the end I found that Amazon.com had a used copy for only $56.00, shipping included. Now said shipping could take up to two weeks and there was no guarantee of the real condition of the textbook, but they also had a 30-day return policy if I wasn't satisfied.

This quest really opened my eyes to how much work needed to be done before I even had a chance to do my homework, but if you can hold off a few weeks and love to find a bargain, it looks like the Internet is a student's best friend when it comes to saving a buck and their sanity.

JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

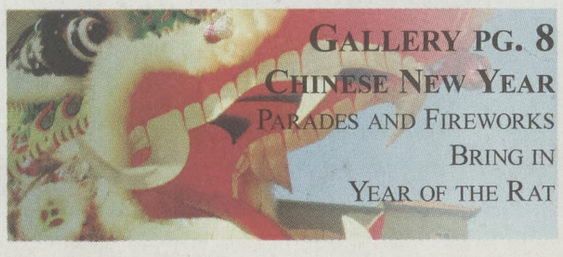
BUYING KNOWLEDGE - Esteban Telles, a C.A.O.T major, is purchasing a book which he thinks is outrageously high in cost

OPINION PG. 3
DESIGNER PLANET
FASHION HOUSES PUT THEIR STAMP ON THE GREEN REVOLUTION

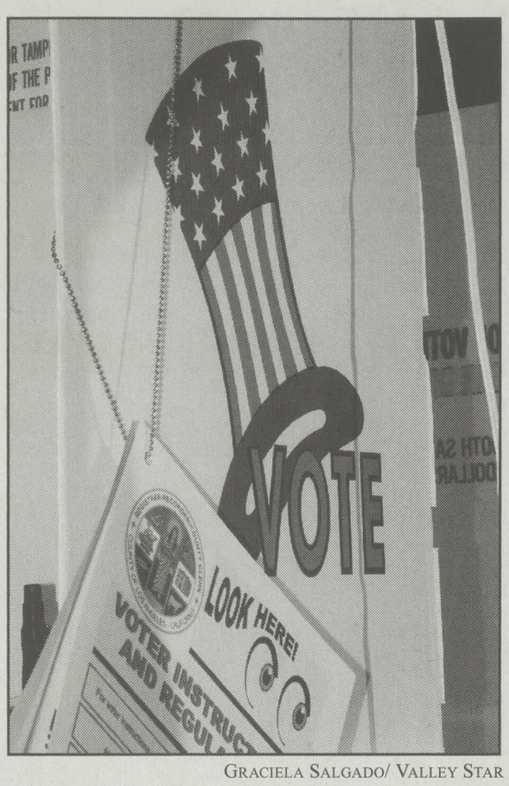


VALLEY LIFE PGS. 5-6
TRAVEL TALES
NEW AND OLD MEET AT L.A. COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

SPORTS PG. 7
SOFTBALL
MONARCHS VICTORIOUS AGAINST PASADENA CITY COLLEGE.



GALLERY PG. 8
CHINESE NEW YEAR
PARADES AND FIREWORKS BRING IN YEAR OF THE RAT



GRACIELA SALGADO/ VALLEY STAR

COME AND VOTE - The polling places around California were full of signage to help voters find their way around the locations.

'Primary'

continued from page 1

Propositions 94 though 97 passed; these initiatives will give the state a share of Indian casino's slot machine revenue. Voters rejected propositions 91, which would have provided funding for transportation; 92, which dealt with community college funding; and 93, which would have changed the terms limits for state legislators.

Most of the voting in Los Angeles went smoothly, however some glitches were reported, including last-minute changes in polling places and late equipment. The most widespread problem was confusion over non-partisan ballots.

Although both the American Independent and Democratic Parties allow non-partisan voters to choose the party's candidate, in order for the choice to count, they were required to mark a bubble at the top of the ballot showing which party's candidates they wanted to vote for.

Voter turnout in most states increased from previous presidential primaries. According to the Los Angeles Times, turnout in California increased from 37 percent for the 2004 primary to 46 percent of eligible voters.

Al Levy, a 76-year-old volunteer at a Sherman Oaks polling place said that it was "busier than general elections." Bernice Garron, a worker at the same polling place said that there were a lot more Democrats casting ballots than Republicans.

Valley student and sociology major Michael Kligel, 48, has voted in every election since he was 18 years old.

"It's different than every other election we've had," he said. "Hillary Clinton is a woman and you have Barack Obama, a black male, so it's going to be a very intense campaign so I really want to get involved this year."

Twenty-one-year-old sociology major Jami Brackin voted for the first time on Tuesday.

"I'm a college student and Hillary Clinton had a lot of good issues she brought up with the student loans... a lot of good college stuff," she said. "It was right up my alley so I was with Hillary all the way."

The last primaries take place in Montana for the Democrats, New Mexico for the Republicans and South Dakota for both parties in early June. The Democrats will hold their nominating convention in late August while the Republicans will meet the first week of September.

VIVIEN LEE-MAYHUE/ VALLEY STAR

SHOWING RESPECT - Valley College is flying the campus flag at half-staff in memory of LAPD SWAT Officer Randal Simmons, 51, who was killed in the line of duty Feb. 6.

'Profiling'

continued from page 1

professor also saw the two people.

Approximately five to ten minutes after the yelling outside Eddie's class, during which his professor stepped out to his office across the hall, the complaint says Lynch and several security officers repeatedly stuck their heads into the room and stared at Eddie.

Soon after, Eddie said that Lynch stepped into the room, pointed at him and a white student and loudly said, "You, come here!" and ordered them to come outside. The complaint described Eddie's humiliation about being singled out.

"I was immediately shocked by this occurrence, as were my fellow classmates, many of them alarmed," Eddie said in the complaint. "Very embarrassed, I complied with their order and left the classroom."

After being removed, Eddie, who was wearing a long sleeve, dark gray turtleneck that day, says he was confused about his removal and was never asked any questions about the yelling incident involving the other two people.

"As we headed outside, I was still not made aware of the reason for the intrusion and our subsequent detention," he said in the complaint. "When we got outside, I asked the Sheriff why he proceeded to remove us … without first consulting our professor. His response was 'Are you telling me how to do my job?'"

Ted Fickle, Eddie's teacher, questioned the way in which his students were removed.

"The [campus police} never came up and asked me [anything]," Fickle said. "I'm sorry they didn't, because I could have told them that Uriel was in class and that it wasn't him."

Eddie said that aside from being denied any explanation, he was also told to give multiple forms of identification to the security officers and was detained longer than the white student. The other student pulled out with Eddie, who asked to remain anonymous, said he felt the campus police acted improperly. "The way [Lynch] pulled us out was wrong," he said. "He didn't even ask the professor and he had an attitude about it all. It was unprofessional."

Lynch said he was justified in removing the students.

"I [was given] a vague description… as I was leaving the building I looked into an open classroom that didn't appear [to have] an instructor involved," Lynch said. "I saw a male white near the door with a black beanie [and] a male black with a green v-neck and green jeans, basically matching color. In my perception, from a distance, those could look like scrubs."

Both Eddie and witnesses interviewed that day said that he was wearing a dark gray turtleneck.

"[Eddie's] opinion is that it was gray," Lynch said. "What I saw was a green v-neck sweater."

This incident comes after recent events at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, in which the sheriff's deputies there were accused of racially profiling 33 African-American students in October.

The 33 students were targeted as drug suspects and the Los Angeles Community College District, which oversees Valley, Trade Tech and seven other colleges, concluded in an investigation that the sheriffs were guilty of racial profiling.

The district issued a press release on Jan. 7 stating they would implement new policies on all nine campuses to prevent future profiling. The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California filed a complaint about the issue on Feb. 8 and is seeking monetary damages for the Trade Tech students.

Eddie said he was unhappy with the response he received from Valley's administration.

"I feel like they didn't do all they could have done," he said. "I didn't get any explanations on policy or anything. I came out of the meetings knowing as much as I did when I went in."

"No one has given me any assurances to this day that this won't happen to any other student," he said. "They should stand up and protect their student body and I didn't get that from them."

Tom Jacobsmeyer, the vice president of administrative services, could not be reached for comment.

Sgt. Michael Poirier of the Sheriff's department is currently conducting an investigation into the matter and was unavailable for comment.

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ONE WAY OR *ANOTHER*

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **A DAY OF LOVE OR A DAY OF DREAD: SAINT OR SINNER VALENTINE**

Sweeter Than Candy

BY BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

For many people St. Valentine's Day represents dread and corporate greed, but I am here to tell everyone to lighten up, grab a handful of candy hearts, celebrate and find the love.

I can already hear you Grumpy Guses and Negative Nancies groaning, but really, why all the hate? I don't care how dark and callous you think you are; everyone loves candy and getting gifts of affection.

Now I hear the single folks starting to growl, spouting off about how unfair the whole ridiculous holiday is as if it were created to point out how alone they are. But hop off that pity train, V-day is the one day out of the year where you can complain about being single all you want and people will actually try to relate and listen to you. Your married and coupled friends go out of their way to make sure you feel wanted. Don't forget that the bars and clubs will be filled with single folks with their shields down, ready to let loose.

This is the time of year when you can find chocolate in every form imaginable without having to pay top dollar at a mall store. Every grocery and drug store is filled with hearts, peeps and assorted cute variations on love in a sugary sweet candy form, all for less than you would pay for one piece of Sees Candy.

If you are still getting over the childhood trauma of not getting many Valentines from your classmates in elementary school, then it is high time to distribute your own "Hanna Montana" cards to all your friends and co-workers: you'll be getting therapy while looking like an all-around great person. Think of all the "MySpace" messages you will get when you take the time to create a personalized message to your friends list.

You folks out there lucky enough to have a certain someone also need to push the pause button on fighting this day of romance. If your girl or guy is harping on you for something amazing just bite the bullet and put some thought into your relationship. I know admitting you have a heart is scary, but just pretend you are watching "The Bachelor" or at the very least "Flavor of Love" and then you will feel much better about your loved ones.

In our world of Global Warming, presidential elections, and war it seems pretty trivial to complain about a day set aside to show people how much you love them. If you are single, then just buck up and grab the nearest box of chocolate covered cherries and know that in 24 hours it will all be over and everyone will go back to obsessing about the election and Britney Spears.

I Love You Thiiiis Much

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Since St. Valentine's Day was removed from the Roman Catholic Church Papal calendar in 1969, it has become a purely Hallmark holiday. Valentine's Day is supposed to be the celebration of romance, passion, eroticism and love for one another. Instead it has turned into a commercially-driven obligation to express one's feelings in an entirely artificial way. According to the U.S. Greeting Card Association, Valentine's Day cards are the second largest holiday card sold annually, second only to Christmas.

Valentine's Day is pretty dreadful for even the most ideal couples. If you like the holiday, then just how far do you go? Should you get something more expensive than what you got for their birthday? If you buy something over-the-top, then you're setting the bar even higher for the following years.

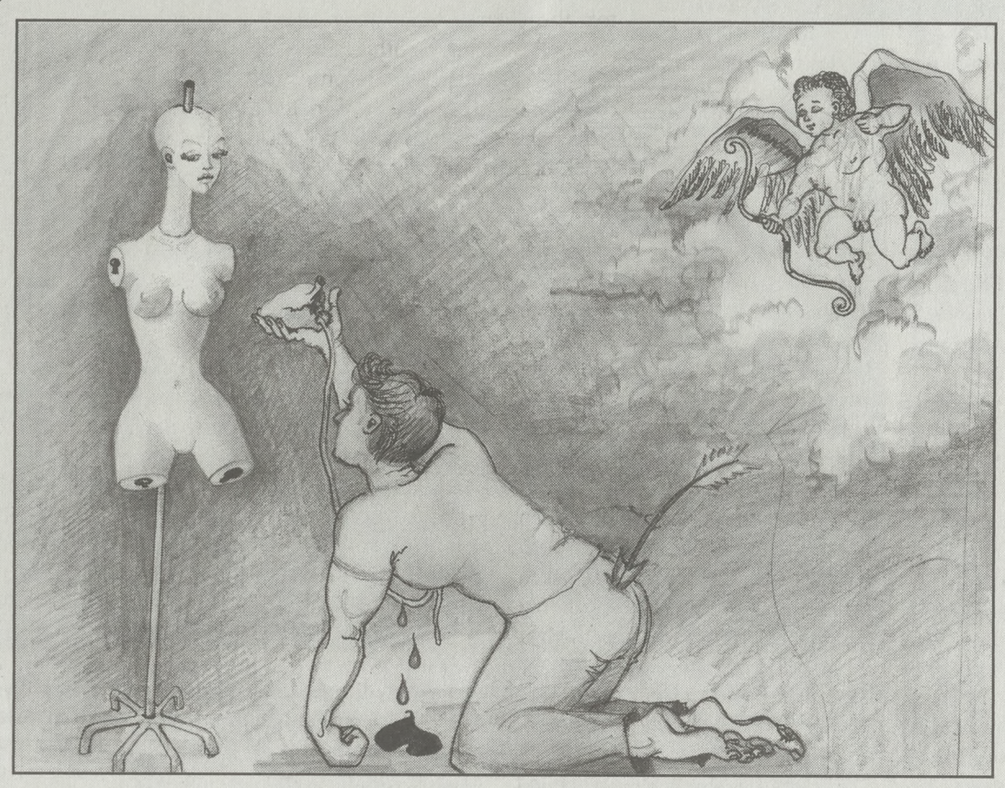
Valentine's Day is a shake-down holiday where money spent is associated with love extended. One should express love year-round, not only on specific days of celebration. Whatever happened to "It's the thought that counts?" Picking a rose out of the bushes used to be romantic, but on Valentine's Day that's simply not enough.

For those who have the pleasure of being single on this hyped-up, superficial holiday, it can go just right if properly planned. Being single leaves your options open. One can decide who to share Valentine's Day with, if choosing anyone at all.

Here's some advice: Staying at home, getting drunk and crying to old love songs while reminiscing because the radio stations increase their usage of slow jams is unacceptable. Under no circumstances do you try to get in touch with your "ex." There is a reason why they are your "ex." Just be glad you're not spending another day of love with someone you probably hate.

Some describe Valentine's Day as a depressing day. There is nothing bad about being single and missing out on this disingenuous holiday because there is nothing to miss out on. Who wants another stuffed animal or a surprise box of chocolates with undesirable, gooey centers? Instead, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate being single and being single does not mean being lonely.

The best way to pass up Valentine's Day is to avoid being in a dedicated relationship. Skip waiting two hours for an over-priced meal at a loud restaurant to have unwanted, awkward conversations you've been trying to avoid for the past two months. Instead, call some friends, rent a movie, and have an entertaining night with people you want to fraternize with.



COURTESY OF PARANDZEM "PAULA" GRIGORYAN

Envirochic, I'd like you to meet groceries

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / JOHN PHILLIPS / VALLEY STAR

Mother earth has got class. Reusable grocery bags rocketed into the spotlight recently thanks to San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi's anti-plastic grocery bag legislation, but another big name entered the green game of late: Louis Vuitton. Esteemed fashion designer Marc Jacobs put his thimble and sewing machine to work in creating one of the first high-fashion reusable tote bags, the "That's L.O.V.E." collection. Created in honor of the venerable Louis Vuitton the series features clever appellation, coyly stating that "You can't spell the word LOVE without the letters "LV." The bag offers more than a mere name-drop; it's prohibitively expensive costing a whopping $1,720.

Being green has long been perceived as being hip, trendy, and environmentally conscious; but with the advent of high-priced green couture being ecosavvy can be a status symbol. In years past status symbols were often markedly not-green, Escalades, sports cars, diamond rings; none of these are environmentally friendly. The obscenely overpriced "That's Love" grocery bag provides a way to show off one's financial fortitude while doing their part to help out ol' Gaia. Moreover, not only does the bag scream "I'M RICH" but also "I'M GREEN AND HIP AND TRENDY." This colorful bag kills three birds with one stone, one mossy non-petroleum based stone.

Americans need all the incentives they can get to persuade them to put down the plastic and pick up the pace on environmentalism. Americans love showing off how efficiently they can spend money on largely worthless things. Last year the ringtone industry raked in nearly $600 million, a few Segways moved off the rack, and a $20,000 Selfridges belt sold quite prolifically. In our consumer culture, the higher an item's price the more desirable the item becomes. Making eco-friendly products appeal to the chic and shabby alike is a boon to the movement.

Gelson's offers two bags for $3, a deal that may appeal to the financially strapped and fashion ambivalent, but no self-respecting aspiring Paris Hilton would be caught dead with such a fashion abomination dangling from his or her arm. Green doesn't necessitate frugality; like all successful product lines reusable grocery bags needs to run the gamut of affordability, or lack thereof.

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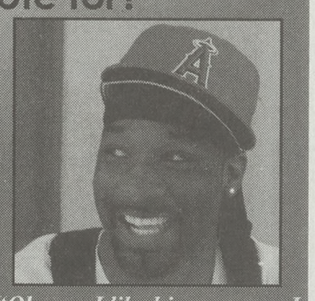
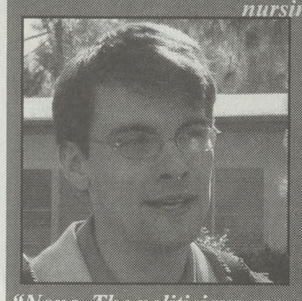
CAMPUS VIEW

Who'd ya vote for?

"Hillary. She's been supportive of Hispanics since the beginning, and a woman should control the country, if you can take care of a child you can take of a country."
-Bianca DeLaCruz, nursing



"Obama. I like his presence. I think he's a strong candidate. He was running a clean campaign, and I like that."
-DeAngelo Hicks, journalism



"None. The politicians are offering no real choices. We have no freedom to vote. I don't play the lottery, why should I vote?"
- Joe Holliday, media arts

"Obama. Given the choices he felt like a more liberal candidate. The whole idea of having a Bush or Clinton n the white house for 25 years seemed a little contrived."
- Cara Thomas, cultural anthropology

photos by Sandra Reyes / Valley Star

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Are things on campus good or bad for you? Did you agree/disagree with anything in the paper? Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication. They should be signed with your full name. Anonymous letters will not be published. Please include contact information.

Super Tuesday Nets Lackluster Results

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

After weeks of pundits examining the minutest gesture, word, or possible snub, voters were able to cast their vote in the pennant race of politics.

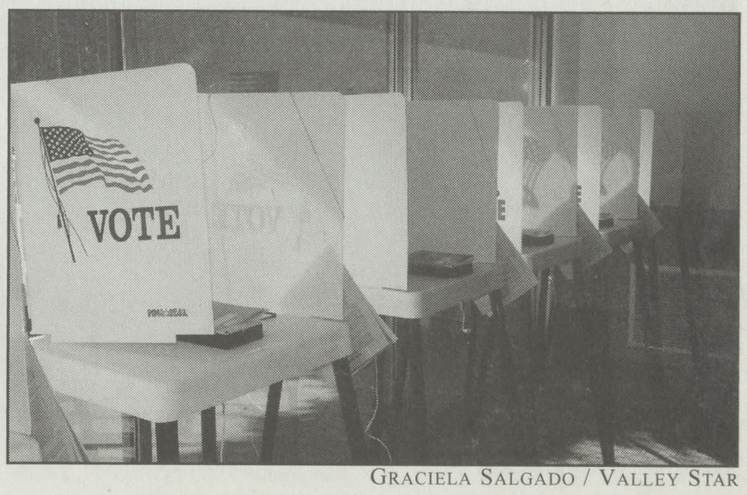
While there was no doubt that John McCain came out as the champion of the race for the G.O.P. nomination, for New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, Super Tuesday was supposed to mark her victory over Illinois Sen. Barrack Obama. Instead the contest for the Democratic nomination is in a state of limbo.

If the Super Tuesday elections proved anything it's that Americans want the country to go in a different direction. According to CNN, people voted in record numbers. In Massachusetts, there was a 48 percent increase in voter turnout, from 793,000 as the previous record to 1,170,000 for the 2008 elections. Change will either come from Obama, Hillary, or McCain. But so far, Obama takes the Democratic lead.

While McCain has already been established as the Republican's Party frontrunner, the Democrat's nomination train to the White House just picked up steam. The New York senator amassed what matters most to obtain the nomination of her party, 584 delegates., while her opponent won the most states.

Delegates get presidential hopefuls nominated, but the contest is also about electability as a president and so far, Obama has been triumphant in that part. For many Republicans, a Hillary in the White House would also mean a Bill Clinton. Conservatives did not hide their dislike for the former president during his term, and the prospect of having him back might just make them vote against Clinton, even as they question McCain's conservative credentials.

In addition, there is no doubt Obama ran on momentum; Clinton entered the race with name recognition. Since the Super Tuesday elections, Obama raised $7.2 million, while Hillary made it public that she loaned her campaign $5 million, even with her husband fundraising for her. This may be a sign of financial difficulties for Clinton as she moves to the final stages of the primaries.



GRACIELA SALGADO / VALLEY STAR

'President'

continued from page 1

the third meeting, the search committee will finalize the language of the recruitment and advertising plan.

According to Jacobsmeyer, the search for an interim president is a shorter process where the district generally looks for within-the-district applicants as opposed to having a nationwide position announcement for a permanent replacement.

The space between Wieder's departure and the arrival of the new president will also allow for some breathing room for the newcomer.

"We have a very large budget crisis looming for next year, where we're going to have cuts like we've never had," said Jacobsmeyer. "With the state having a $14 billion deficit, it could have an effect of reducing our budget anywhere from $4 to 6 million for next year."

According to Jacobsmeyer, the gap between presidents will give the school the opportunity to bring the new president at a more sensible time.

"It is probably a little unfair to bring somebody in when your budget has been cut."

The fast-paced acquisition of an acting president will begin with a three-week-long recruitment and advertising campaign that will run through the rest of February to mid-March, when the application process closes.

Interviews will begin in early April in order for the chancellor to have some names to present to the Board of Trustees by the latter part of April.

The expeditious replacement also comes with the expectation that the interim president adjusts to the position rapidly.

"Our acting president needs to be able to jump in with no learning curve," said Joanne Waddell, physical education professor and Valley chapter president of the American Federation of Teachers faculty guild; Waddell is a member of the search committee. "They really have to go zero to 60 as soon as the light turns green."

Lawrence T. Nakamura, professor of Microbiology and part of the search committee, is looking for "a strong leader who is sensitive to local culture," and someone who respects the shared governance process at Valley.

The committee will begin actively searching for a permanent president in late July or early August.

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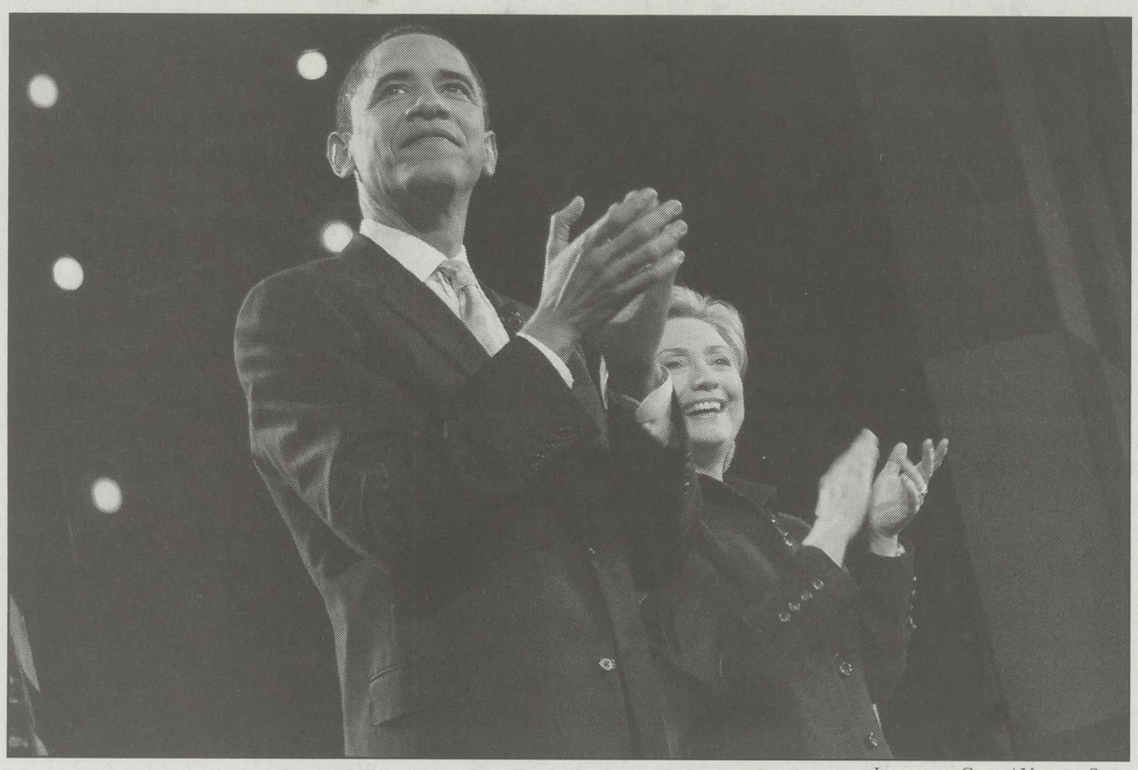

JONATHAN GIBBY/ VALLEY STAR

RIVETING RACE - Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama stand ready at the Jan. 31 Los Angeles debates. With the race at a veritable standstill the candidates find themselves embroiled in fierce competition. The nomination remains in the air, and with a mere 17 states to go the National Convention is on the horizon.

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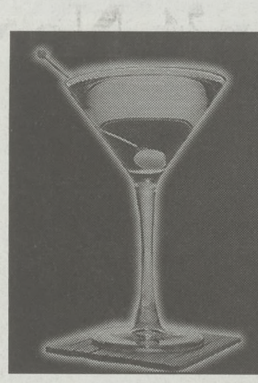

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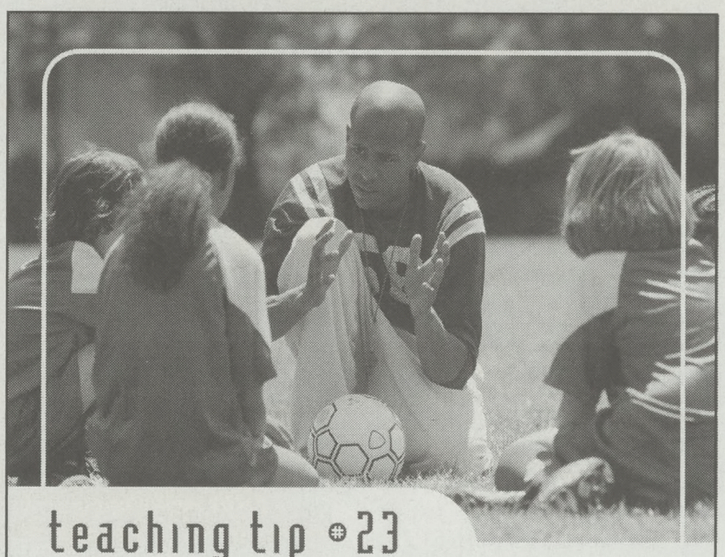

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'Scholarships'

continued from page 1

in order to avoid selecting ones they are not eligible for.

ASU President Mari Kiridjian is applying for scholarships for the first time.

"I don't qualify for financial aid, so winning a scholarship would help me with my fees, and also help me in transferring out to UCLA." she said.

International students are eligible to apply for most scholarships, as are students receiving financial aid. However, those receiving aid should check to see if a scholarship would affect this.

Jason Schaff, chairman of the scholarship committee, has been judging scholarship entries since 2004 and enjoys this time of year.

"Winning any scholarship greatly affects any student and can help them out immensely," he said. "Going to the award night and seeing the students receive them is very satisfying."

Scholarship applications are available from the LACV Foundation office in Admin. 100 and are due by March 14. More information is available by calling 818-947-2619, or by visiting lavcfoundation.org.

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:

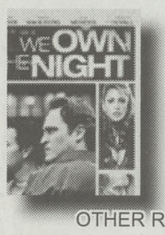
MICHAEL JACKSON, *THRILLER 25TH ANNIVERSARY* EPIC

OTHER RELEASES:

Kylie Minogue, *"X"*
Widespread Panic, *"Free Somehow"*
Simple Plan, *"Simple Plan"*
Murder By Death, *"Fuego"*

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



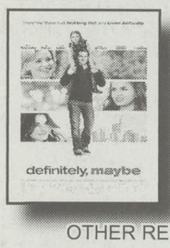
WE OWN THE NIGHT

OTHER RELEASES:

"Gone Baby Gone"
"No Reservations"
"Martian Child"
"Becoming Jane"

Movies

PICK OF THE WEEK:



"DEFINITELY MAYBE"

OTHER RELEASES:

"The Spiderwick Chronicles"
"Jumper"
"Step Up 2: The Streets"

Book

PICK OF THE WEEK:

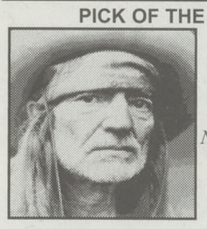
"HONOR THYSELF" *DANIELLE STEELE*

OTHER RELEASES:

"Remember Me," Sophie Kinsella
"Peony In Love," Lisa See
"Stranger in Death," J.D. Robb

Conert Information: Performances

PICK OF THE WEEK:

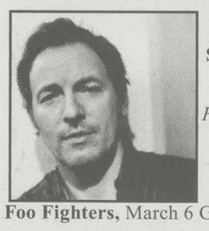


WILLIE NELSON *FEB.13 NOKIA THEATRE*

DJ Shadew, Feb.14 Housplese of Blues
Editors, Feb.14 House of Blues
Jill Scott, Feb.14 Gibson Ampitheatre
WWE Raw, Feb.16 Staples Center

On Sale Info

PICK OF THE WEEK:



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN *APRIL 7, 8 HONDA CENTER*

Foo Fighters, March 6 GW Forum
Taste of Chaos, Apr.10 Long Beach Arena
Jay Z, Feb. 16 Hollywood Bowl
Tapes N' Tapes, Feb. 21 Troubador

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

Drunken Cat
Fat Kid Fall Down
Hilarious Asian Prank
Joke Punch in Face

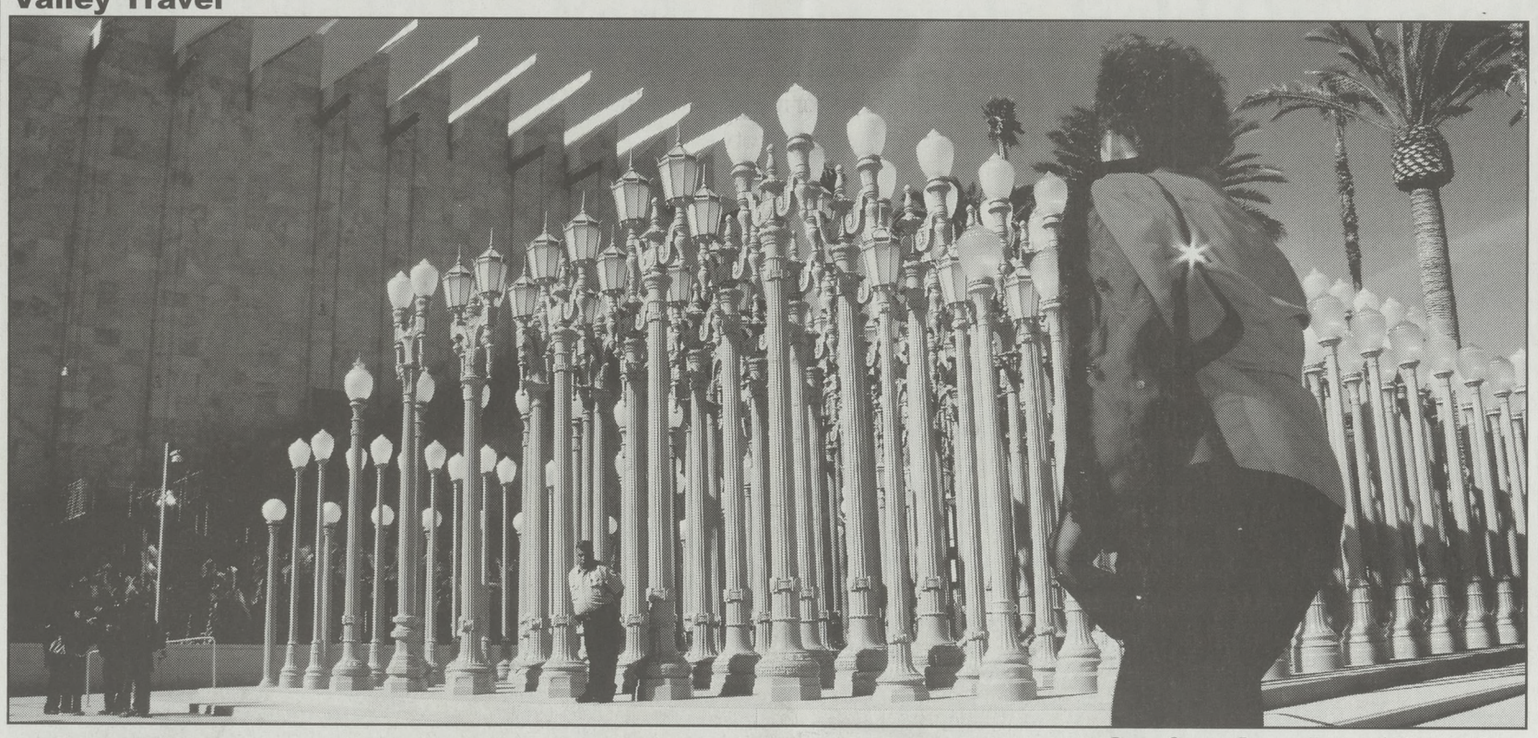
DON'T FORGET TO TiVo

Project Runway, *Bravo, Wed.* 10 pm
Celebrity Rehab, *Vh1, Thurs.*10:30 pm
Flavor of Love 3, *Vh1, Mon.* 9 pm
Lost, *ABC, Wed. 10 pm*

Additional content online - Go to

www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Travel



PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

LIGHTING A NEW ERA - The New 'Urban Light' display is one of the new attactions at the Los Angeles County Museum

LACMA's Renovation Showcases Art, New and Old

ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

I'm what you would call a late bloomer, that is, I barely learned how to drive as a 20 year old. So, armed with my recent permit in hand and passenger by my side I made my way through traffic and took my first trip out of the Valley as a driver to Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

You have probably already seen the banners with the red hatched egg all over street light posts announcing the opening of The Broad Contemporary Art Museum on Feb. 16. But you don't have to wait for BCAM to witness LACMA's Tranformation, an expansion and renovation of the museum in three phases, to enjoy everything from classics to contemporaries.

Visit the renovated Ahmanson building that reopened this year with an expansion of 130 works. The building has works by Picasso, such as "Bust of a Woman," and Josef Albers's "Homage to the Square."

When you're done admiring contemporary masters, climb to the second floor and experience European art. If you are a romantic and like sculpture, you have to see Auguste Rodin's sculptures. Witness how two lovers clasp and melt into each other in their world of bronze, in his creation "Eternal Spring."

While you see Rodin, take time to accompany the French men and women of Claude Monet's "Le Havre, Bateaux de Peche Sortant du Port" for a stroll along a port on a winter day. Perhaps you can even find love among strangers, or just go for a ride on a boat.

If you want to travel further back to the dawn of civilization and are not afraid of dead bodies, visit the mummy of Ta-Senet-Net-Hor, which dates back to 900 B.C. and is still in its original package.

And if you are still hungry for contemporary art, run to the Hammer building, which houses art from the "light and space" and "finish fetish" Southern California Art movement of the 1960s and 1970s by artists like Ron Davis and Lyn Foulkes.

Finally, make your way back to the Ahmanson building and finish your experience with a long gaze into Voltaire's face, at least the replica of his face in Jean-Antoine Houdon's life-size sculpture of leader of Europe's intellectuals during the Enlightenment. Maybe it will make you reflect on the importance of civil liberties.

If you would like to see the unveiling of BCAM, admission will be free from Feb. 16 to the 18 but tickets are required. LACMA will also be hosting a free college student night Feb. 28 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

You can visit the museum Monday through Friday, except Wednesdays, from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Student tickets are eight dollars with student identification and you can pay your own price after 5 p.m.

V-Day Doesn't Necessarily Mean D-Day

GRACIELA SALGADO/ VALLEY STAR

HAPPY TIME - Valentine's Day shouldn't be another commercialized holiday to enjoy a specific way. Why not celebrate like good friends Linda Ruiz, 17, and Jessica Calzada, 16

ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 14 is a date that can strike fear into the hearts of single women and men across the world – the prospect of seeing happy couples parading their love in front of everyone can be just too much to bear. However, the prospect of not having a significant other to share the love with on Valentine's Day need not worry the singletons out there, as there is more to this day than candy, flowers and soppy cards.

If being alone is on your mind, getting together with a group of friends is an excellent way to keep the "lonelies" at bay. Whether it's dinner at a restaurant or sharing drinks at home, spending time with friends can be a great time and makes sure that none of your fellow singles feel left out. As an added bonus, the middle of February is the perfect time to catch up with friends you may not have seen over the busy holiday period.

Indulging yourself is another way to celebrate St. Valentine's. Buying yourself the shoes you have been eyeing, or taking a weekend fishing trip that's been long overdue is the gift to yourself – a congratulations for leading the fabulous single life. The added bonus to treating yourself is that there is no risk of getting an unwanted gift that you will have to return on the sly.

For those out there who do love spreading the love, make Valentine's Day cards or small gifts for brothers, sisters, friends or anyone out there that needs a smile on their face – single or spoken for alike. Giving those close to you something to brighten up their day is a sure way banish any blues, and you may just get a small token in return.

There are truly brave souls on Valentine's Day who dare venture out solo, proud of their solitary status in front of the masses of couples. If this is you, congratulations on being proud of who you are. If you aren't quite ready to go it alone, just remember that Valentine's isn't just for couples, but for anyone who you love and care about.

In Stereo
By Joshua Spence

Mould Shines New Light on "District Line"

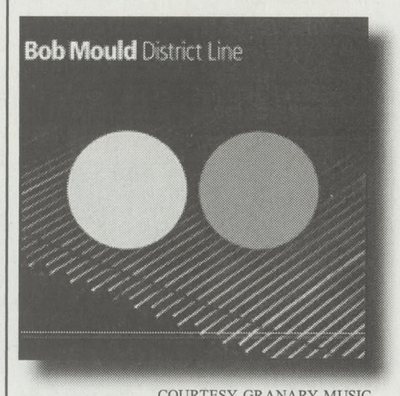
No longer the angry young man he used to be, Bob Mould's "District Line" reflects a sense of contentiveness and aware of self that only comes with several albums chock full of cryptic self- flagellation.

Sonically, Mould continues to intentionally turn the volume down from 11 to 10; which is something he's done since his solo debut "Workbook." Whether Mould has done this intentionally to differentiate his sound when he was with Husker Du or even Sugar remains to be seen. Either way Mould has always been a top-notch songwriter and with the volume slightly lower you can see how sailor-knot tight the song structure really is.

Those who do know Mould as a songwriter will be pleasantly surprised at the higher than normal song consistency "District Line" offers. The opener, "Stupid Now," sets the tone with blissed out choruses everywhere even making sour songs like "Who Needs to Dream?" sound down right fist-pumpingly anthemic.

Fixing what 2005's "Body of Song" did too much of, "District Line" uses less keyboards and fewer electronic flourishes. Mould now uses these techniques to enhance his sonic arsenal as opposed to his sole musical palette. Not quite as loud as his days with Husker Du, Mould opts to use his trademark wall of sound reverb to aim it at what he wants the listener to really hear.

"District Line" is a great introductory record for people to discover a punk legend who continues to deliver great albums long after he's fallen off the commercial radar screen.



COURTESY GRANARY MUSIC

Valley Health: Look Before You Eat

DIANA QUEZADA
COPY EDITOR

The typical dieting population of America is obsessed with fat and carbohydrate content in foods, but what people fail to recognize is the high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) in processed foods that is contributing to the obesity epidemic.

In simple terms, HFCS is developed by processing cornstarch to yield a high percentage of fructose with the same sweetness and taste as sugar from sugar cane. This complex process is cheaper for manufacturers to use in their foods, compared to sugar. HFCS is also known to extend the shelf life of foods, inhibit freezer burn, and keep breads soft, all while having adverse health effects.

"The medical profession thinks fructose is better for diabetics than sugar, but every cell in the body can metabolize glucose," stated Dr. Meira Feild in a study for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "However, all fructose must be metabolized in the liver. The livers of the rats on the high fructose diet looked like the livers of alcoholics, plugged with fat and cirrhotic."

HFCS is found in many foods, including yogurt; cereal; bread; soda and energy drinks. Ketchup and jams are also laced with HFCS and even many "healthy" foods contain the deadly ingredient. A common misconception that consumers make is the association with fructose and fruit. It is typically thought that HFCS is healthier than sugar. But this just isn't so.

Dr. George Bray, principal investigator of the Diabetes Prevention Program at Louisiana State University Medical Center said that just after HFCS was introduced in mass quantities in 1980, obesity rates began to rise, only to double in 2000.

In an effort to alleviate the growing obesity number, instead of buying products with HFCS, perhaps look for products that have natural sugar or even organic raw sugar. Take a few extra minutes to look at the label and see if the harmful ingredient is lurking. There are many sodas, yogurts, and breads available that are sweetened naturally and won't hurt your well-being; Trader Joe's and Whole Foods are always excellent choices for natural foods.

Food companies have their best interest in mind and will do whatever it takes to save a dime, but when it's at the expense of human lives, a refund is in order.

Critics Notebook

Television of the Damned

■ In the midst of the WGA Strike, I may be losing my soul

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Rumor has it that the writer's strike may be in its final days, and I am ready to do the Snoopy dance of joy after suffering months of desperation without my "housewives" and being "lost" without my "heroes."

Turning on the television these days is like playing a game of Russian roulette – you take your life and sanity into your own hands. The entire TV landscape has become overrun with bland talk shows; awards ceremonies without stars and mid-season replacements that don't qualify as good, even in the best of times. It is with a heavy heart that I turn to reality TV; I have had enough and need more than election coverage.

VH1 has turned me into a "Celebreality" junkie. There is just a huge rush out of seeing sad C-list celebrities with lives worse than mine. I may not have my "Heroes," but I certainly have my choices of villains on such highbrow shows as "Rock of Love 2" and "Flavor of Love 3." Watching 20-something bimbos throwing themselves at washed-up music stars reminds me that art is subjective and that any girl who can dance on a pole can be a hit on TV

There are also gems amidst the piles of crap. "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew" is a frightening smack in the face to

see *'Critics'* page 6

2008 Grammy Awards

Grammy's Celebrate 50th Anniversary in Style

By Sheila Koochak
Staff Writer

The 50th Annual Grammy Awards took place at the Staples Center on Feb. 10. This star-studded event takes place every year to honor the biggest names in music.

The Grammys highlighted its history from the first performance to the last, including performances from the legendary Aretha Franklin and Tina Turner, who teamed up with Beyonce.

Kanye West racked up eight Grammy nominations – more than any other artist, mostly from the success of his album "Graduation." West's "Graduation" earned him his third straight nomination for album of the year; unfortunately, West has had no success winning the big award (Album of the Year), not even this year. He did pick up four Grammys including Best Rap Album of the year.

As West was accepting his trophy for Best rap Album, the orchestra tried to play him off the stage as he began to speak about his mother.

"It would be in good taste to stop the music," he said, as the music slowly faded. West continued, "I appreciate everything and I know you are really proud of me right now and I know you wouldn't want me to stop and you'd want me to be the Number 1 artist in the world, and Mama, all I'm going to do is keep making you proud. We run this!"

Amy Winehouse, nominated for six awards, won three out of the big four general categories: Record of the Year, Best New Artist and Song of the Year. She also snagged up the Grammys for Best Pop Vocal album and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, giving her an overall five Grammys for the night. Winehouse's performance brought the awards some controversy, as her scheduled live performance at the show was changed when the U.S. government initally denied her work visa. Sadly ironic, Winehouse was forced to perform her hit "Rehab" via satellite from London, where she continues to seek treatment.

The performance of the night had to go to Kanye West, who delivered an emotional, glow-in-the-dark interpretation of "Stronger." He then segued into a magnificent tribute to his mother, Donda West, who passed away in late 2007.

Herbie Hancock won Album of the Year for his record "River: The Joni Letters" beating out West, Winehouse, Vince Gill and the Foo Fighters.

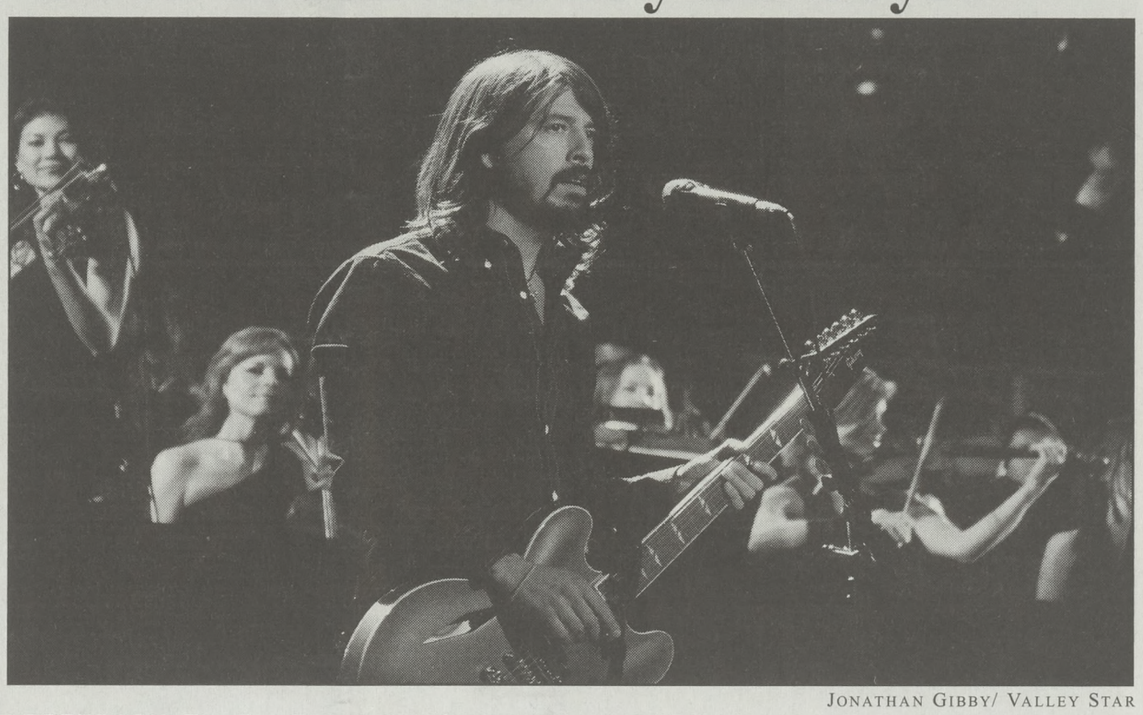
For the first time in the Grammy's half-century history, the Best New Artist category was dominated by females with all four nominees being females including Feist, Ledisi, Paramore, Taylor Swift and won by Amy Winehouse.

Among the winners at the pre-broadcast ceremony for the Grammys: Justin Timberlake and Mary J. Blige both received two awards. Other top winners included gospel star Karen Clark-Sheard and Bruce Springsteen, receiving three Grammys each.

Although focusing on the presidential primary elections, U.S. presidential hopeful Barack Obama had his eye on different kind of award Sunday night – The Grammy.

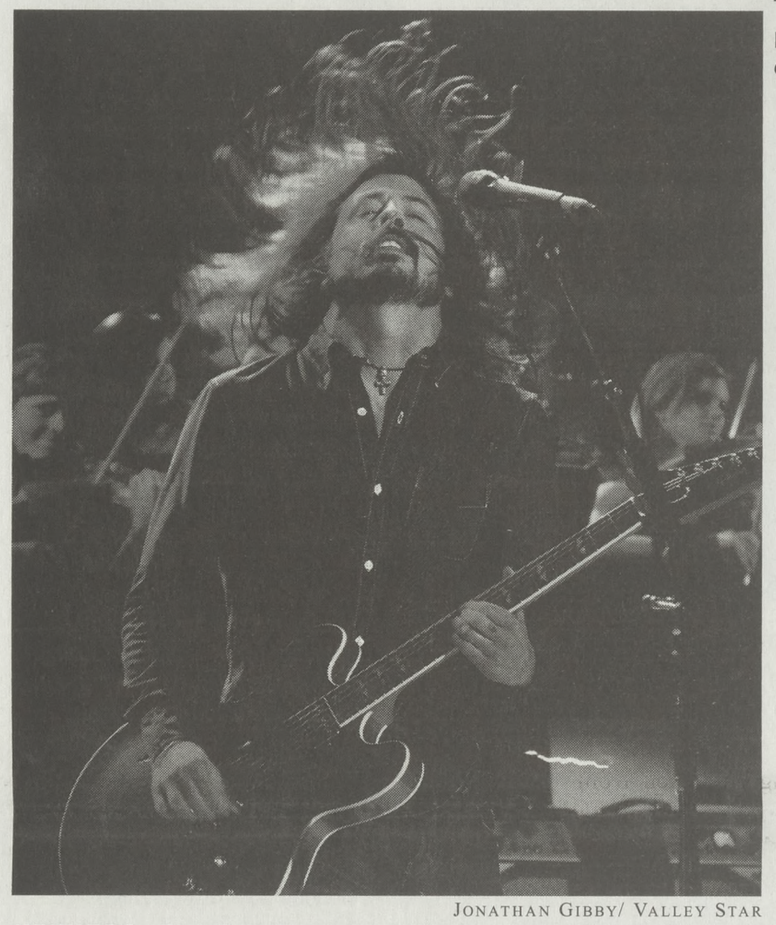
Obama defeated two former U.S. presidents, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, as well as poet Maya Angelou and actor Alan Alda when he took home the award for Best Spoken Word Album on his audiobook, "The Audacity Of Hope: Thoughts On Reclaiming The American Dream."

One entertaining performance after another, that's what the Grammys are all about. This years award show was well worth watching. After 50 years, the Grammys are going strong and making history.



Jonathan Gibby/ Valley Star

LEGENDARY- The Foo Fighters performance featured a full orchestra arranged and conducted by Led Zeppelin's legendary bassist John Paul Jones.



Jonathan Gibby/ Valley Star

WINNERS- The Foo Fighters walked away with two Grammy wins, Best Rock Album for *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace* and Best Hard Rock Performance for "The Pretender."

The Winners:

Album of the Year:
"River: The Joni Letters"
Herbie Hanconck

Record of the Year:
"Rehab"
Amy Winehouse

Best New Artist:
Amy Winehouse

Best Rock Album:
"Echoes, Silence, Patience, and Grace"
Foo Fighters

Best Rap Album:
"Graduation"
Kanye West

Best Alternative Album:
"Icky Thump"
The White Stripes

Monarch Stadium Gets the Spotlight

Shannon McHugh
Staff Writer

Los Angeles Valley College's very own Monarch Stadium received a national award for the design and construction of its outdoor track field last month from the American Sports Builders Association.

The award was presented from ASBA to Mondo USA, a leading flooring company for sports arenas, at a convention in Dallas, Texas. Valley was presented the award by Neil Silver of Mondo USA after being nominated by the architect of the stadium renovation project that ended in Fall 2006, leaving Valley with a completely restored track field.

"It's a really nice track," expressed Francois Wolman, head track coach. "It's considered one of the best tracks in the state, and has really helped train and recruit athletes to come run for us."

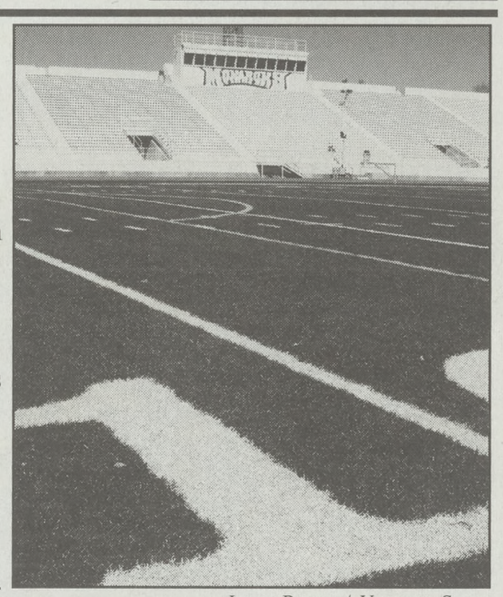
This award is not easy to attain as the competition is vast and ranges from high school, community college, and university fields alike. "There are hundreds of facilities submitted for these awards around the country and we were one of the six selected," remarked Chuck Ferrero, Athletic Director for Valley.

Ferrero explained that the award was for the brand new track facility equipped with Mondo XP, the track surface used in the Olympics, as well as the new Sprinturf synthetic turf on the football and soccer field.

"The facility includes a new track, playing field, javelin runway and a new hammer and discus throwing cage, rings, and field plus a renovated shot put facility," Ferrero explained.

Since its completion in Fall 2006, athletes and coaches alike have been noticing what a difference a renovation of flooring can do for their track performance. Carlos Parraguirre, who has been a member of the track team since 2006, agrees, noticing a significant difference in his performance with the newly reformed stadium. "It's so much better," Parraguirre said. "It used to be all dirt and harder to train on, but the new field has made it so much easier."

The track and field season is fast-approaching and Monarch Stadium's new look and brand new award should be turning heads toward the track team this year. Wolman encourages students to come check out the track team and their award-winning stadium on March 7, their only home game this season.



Juan Roble/ Valley Star

ACHIEVING GREATNESS- The Monarch Stadium was recognize nationally and given an award in 2007.

Websites You Should Know About, But Don't

James Bennett
Opinion Editor

The Internet is a dangerous place. Behind every corner lurks a horrifying e-abomination: a shocking picture or video, a vulgar chat log, cleverly hidden viruses or the FBI. Digital novices inevitably stumble into treacherous corridors of e-horror, often leading to e-disenfranchisement. However, a veritable cornucopia of e-beauty lay in wait, subtly beckoning the savvy surfer. Humor, community, eclectic music and handy spam prevention constitute a mere follicle of the oversize wig that is e-splendor. The following is a top five list of websites you don't know about, but should, dredged from the depths of the forsaken cyberland itself.

1. www.SomethingAwful.com - The earth is sustained by its spinning core of molten nickel-iron alloy; the Internet is sustained by SomethingAwful forum posters, otherwise known as "goons" or "neckbearded recluses." Primarily a satire site, SA boasts a front page with daily updates by a wide array of talented humor writers. Updates include unique articles and recurring features, such as Weekend Web, a humorous collection of horrible message board posts from various website forums. The site also sports a collection of hilarious flash animations; songs and sound bytes; parody web pages and more. Beyond the front page are the forums: numerous message boards for a variety of topics: general discussion; games; debate and discussion; technology and more. The majority of amusing content found on the Internet is birthed on the SomethingAwful forums; this is not a title to be taken lightly.

2. www.ToothpasteforDinner.com – Jan. 1, 2002: Drew, a patent-holding research chemist from Columbus, Ohio uploads an amateur, poorly drawn and barely legible one-frame webcomic. Today: Toothpaste for Dinner boasts well over 300,000 unique hits per month. Drew updates precisely at midnight, every night providing his readers a steamy, hot cup of e-crack to compliment their balanced breakfast of high-fructose corn syrup and cleverly disguised sugar cubes. The Picasso-esque drawings compliment satirical, political, non sequitur or simply bizarre chicken scratch.

3. www.SomaFM.com - When it comes to eclectic music, SomaFM is king. As commercial-free Internet radio becomes increasingly rare, SomaFM holds true to its ideals. The site streams a slew of genres, ranging from lounge to trance to indie pop. Users can tune into Secret Agent for a dose of spy-friendly tunes suitable for romancing femme fatales and polishing Walther PPKs; or dial into Groove Salad, one of the Internet's oldest and most famous streams for a huge selection of lounge and NuJazz. Unless your fancy is gangster rap or heavy metal, SomaFM has what you're looking for.

4. www.10MinuteMail.com - For those of you who are sick and tired of spam. 10MinuteMail does exactly what one would think it does, it generates an email address and inbox for exactly 10 minutes. Signing up for dubious websites is safer than ever.

5. www.SearchForVideo.com - Perhaps the video of a hamster shooting a rocket launcher isn't on YouTube anymore due to copyright infringement, but that's OK. Chances are it's hosted on another Internet video site, the only problem: You don't know where to find it; Google comes up empty-handed, and the one site that might have it is in German. SearchforVideo to the rescue: this little site carves a proverbial wide swathe of search through the various Internet video sites, making your search for miniskirt-clad chimps even easier

'Critics'

continued from page 1

those who think Lindsay and Britney should be put away. The sadness on this show is palpable and even though I believe these "stars" signed up for publicity, the show at least tries to help them while making the audience wonder how low we have stooped without new "C.S.I" episodes.

But I am almost certainly going to the seventh level of Hell for loving the new Fox series "The Moment of Truth." This show takes everyday folks and puts their honesty to the test, while their loved ones and America watches. At first I thought this was a "Mad TV" sketch, but this show is for real and it means business. Questions like "Have you ever checked out another man in the showers?" are asked to a hapless fitness trainer while his wife and best friends wait for the truth with baited breath. Oh, and the answer was "Yes."

So I need this strike to be over. I need to find more positive programs to redeem myself,and remember a time when Scott Baio was an actor and not pregnant.

WHAT'S NEW @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

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By Brad Taylor

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By Sheila Koochak

Valley Health: Look Before You Eat
By Diana Quezada

Mould Shines New Light on "District Line"
By Josh Spence

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Obama Holds Campaign Rally at Trade Tech
By Paul Olden

Sack the Plastic Bag
By Elizeda Beltran

A Door to Something New
By Gracie Salgado

Proposition Key to Lower Student Fees
By Kristen Becker

LA VC EVENTS

Faculty/ Student Variety Show
Feb. 20 @ 1p.
Music Recital Hall M106

The Writing Process
Feb.20 @ 12p.
The Writing Center H.100

Microsoft Word Basics
Feb. 21 @ 4p.
The Writing Center H.100

How to Write a Thesis Statement
Feb. 25 @ 12p.
The Writing Center H.100

Paragraphing
Feb. 27
The Writing Center H.100

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Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

Feb. 14 National University 10-1

Feb. 19 CSUN 10-1, 5-7

Feb. 20 Mount St. Mary's 10- 1

Feb. 21 UC Santa Barbara 10-1

Feb. 25 Financing Wokshop 1- 2

Additional content online - Go to

www.lavalleystar.com

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

Feb. 9	Runs	Hits	Errors
VALLEY	5	--	--
IRVINE	6	--	--

Pitchers Of Record
W: Heben (1-1)
L: N/A
S: Persinger (2)

Men's Basketball

Feb. 9	1st	2nd	Final
VALLEY	38	36	74
CITRUS	51	41	92

Top Performers
PTS: Awaji (CIT) 26 / Riney (LAVC) 20
REB: Moore (CIT) 15 / Malone (LAVC) 9
AST: Richardson (CIT) 6 / Riney (LAVC) 4

Softball

Feb. 12	Runs	Hits	Errors
PIERCE	5	--	--
VALLEY	6	--	--

Pitchers Of Record
W: Snyder
L: N/A

Women's Basketball

Feb. 9	1st	2nd	Final
VALLEY	39	33	72
CITRUS	41	38	79

Top Performers:
PTS: Matthews (CIT) 20 / Orrego (LAVC) 19
REB: West (CIT) 7 / Orrego (LAVC) 9
AST: Washington (CIT) 7 / Berina (LAVC) 6

For additional scores, information and sports coverage please visit www.lavalleystar.com.

Bats Shine Early, Monarchs Hold Off Late Inning Rally

JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

FIRE STARTER - Qumi Kimble of Valley College slides into home plate, igniting the Monarchs' six run first inning versus Pasadena City College on Thursday Feb. 7. Valley won the game 9-7.

Two Inning Explosion Leads to Fourth Victory in Five Games

BY ERIC L. PATTEN
SPORTS EDITOR

VALLEY GLEN—A crisp, sunny Los Angeles afternoon and a nine-run cushion nearly escaped the Valley College softball team Thursday, but they managed to stave off a pesky final inning from Pasadena City College to pull out a 9-7 victory.

Led by an early offensive onslaught and timely pitching, the Monarchs had little to worry about for much of the game, but earning the final three outs was a call for anxiety.

Head coach Briana Mathiesen blamed getting too comfortable on the team's near collapse.

"We started out strong and came out hitting," she said. "But then we got a little relaxed and unfocused."

The focus started to waver in the top of the fifth. With a 9-0 lead and runners on first and second, catcher Jessica Velasquez snapped a two-out pickoff attempt to first base. The ball ricocheted past first baseman Yvette Serratos and rolled down the line, finally caroming off the temporary fence in right field, plating both runners.

Two pitches later, sophomore Sasha Snyder got Pasadena's Jessica Torres to fly out, ending the inning, but leaving the Lancers a bit of daylight.

Snyder breezed through the sixth, but the sun could not set soon enough, as the Lancers marched nine hitters to the plate. The chatter from Pasadena's dugout went from nonexistent to exuberant as they teed off on Snyder, who battled fatigue for much of the game.

In contrast, the Monarchs appeared to grow tighter as evening grew nearer, committing two errors in the inning. Finally, with two outs and the go-ahead run on deck, Snyder forced a sharply-hit grounder to third baseman Sandra Quiroz to stifle the Lancers, sending the visitors east with the evening fading behind them and improving Valley's record to 4-2.

Following the game, Snyder echoed her coach's sentiment saying, "I think we did well at the beginning, but in the end, fell apart mentally."

Still, the Monarchs proved that they might have one of the more potent offenses in the Western State Conference.

Eight of their nine players recorded at least one hit on Thursday, including two each from Serratos and Velasquez. It also marked the fourth time in five games that they've scored more than eight runs, all four were Monarch victories.

Mathiesen said she was happy to see the team get off to such a fast start.

"We haven't had a good first couple of innings all season," the first-year coach said. "Having them come up and actually start attacking right away was good."

To say they were attacking may have been understated.

After leadoff hitter Qumi Kimble reached on an error, she swiped second with an emphatic headfirst dive. One pitch later, Kimble scored on a Velasquez single and the assault was on. Following another hit and Pasadena error, Quiroz drove in two more as she slapped a single over the second baseman's head.

Soon after, Serratos and Erica Nolasco knocked in runs and the Lancers looked to be overmatched. By the time Kimble singled Nolasco home, in her second plate appearance of the inning, it was already 5-0.

Kimble, who began the season as the team's number nine hitter, has become a catalyst for the Monarchs' offensive approach.

"Q's a little firecracker," said Mathiesen. "She's one of my sophomores and I look for her leadership."

After Valley's first-inning jumpstart, Pasadena ran itself out of any chance to respond.

With one away and a runner on first, Lancer catcher Katie Yost attempted to sacrifice Rachel Diaz to second. Valley's Quiroz, who easily threw Yost out at first base and quickly retreated back to third, caught Diaz trying to stretch two bases out of the bunt for an inning ending 5-3-5 double play.

Valley's offense wasted no time building on their lead.

Shortstop Andi Herrera led off the bottom of the second with a screaming triple into the right-center gap. After Francess Alvarez grounded out to third, Quiroz managed to drive in her third run of the game on a grounder between the shortstop's legs. With Quiroz and Snyder, who reached on a single, aboard, Serratos doubled to put the Monarch's out in front by nine.

On the rubber, Snyder, who had struggled in some of her previous outings this season, cruised through much of the Lancers' batting order, at least until the seventh.

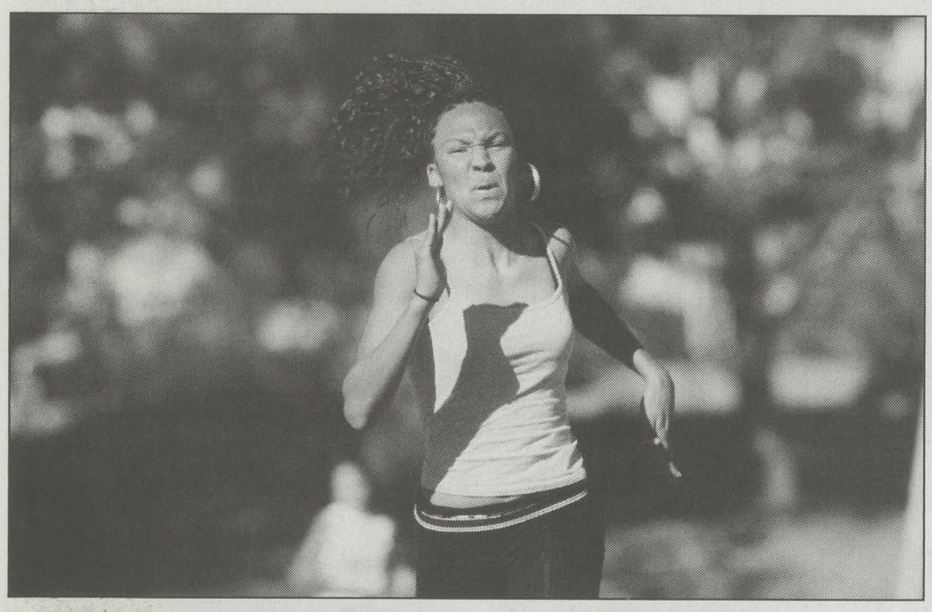
"Sasha did very well," Mathiesen said. "She's been struggling and we worked a little bit and she had a much better performance today."

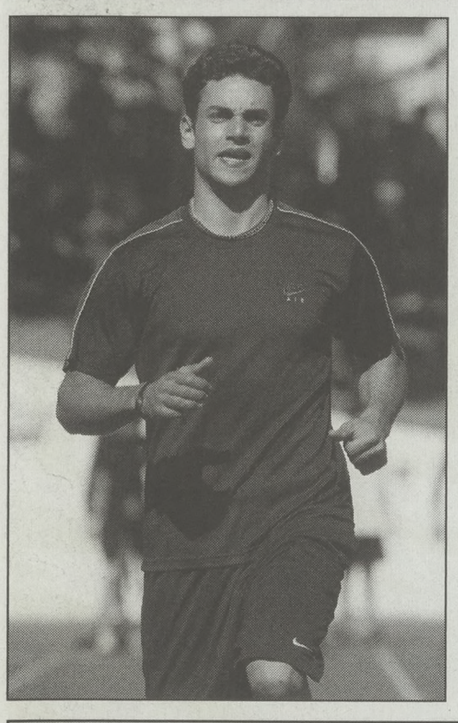
Mathiesen also said that she emphasized to Snyder the importance of keeping her pitches down and focusing on her mechanics.

Velasquez was also glad to see her battery mate get over her early-season shakiness.

"She was definitely hitting her spots a lot better than she was the last couple of games," the second-year catcher said. "We've also tried communicating a lot more about what will help her."

Valley's next game is at Oxnard College on Thursday Feb. 14. Game time is 2:30 p.m.





PHOTOS & TEXT BY PAUL OLDEN
PHOTO EDITOR

ALL OUT EFFORT - Valley College's Sylvia Alboniga (top) competes in the 400 meter run at an all-comers track meet at Cal State University Northridge, Saturday Feb. 9. Most of the competitors didn't wear their school colors which reflected the informal nature of the event. (Left) Valley's Mike Ghali ran the 60 meter dash twice at the all-comers meet. The the event allows competitors to work on techniques in the same event at different times of the day. Competitors included those ranging from four-year universities to a brief race between a 5-year-old boy and 6-year-old girl. The Monarchs will compete in their first Western State Conference meet of the season Thursday Feb. 14 at Glendale Community College.

Citrus Outshoots Lady Monarchs For Seven-Point Win

BY KIMBERLEE DURAN
STAFF WRITER

GLENDORA—The Lady Monarchs basketball team lost their third consecutive game Feb. 9 to the Citrus College Owls 79-72, bringing their record to 14-15 overall and 4-5 in the Western State Conference.

Valley started off well in what was their third meeting of the season against Citrus, moving the ball around to get inside shots for forward Liseth Orrego. However, Valley consistently forgot to get back on defense resulting in several fast-break opportunities for the Owls.

After being tied 12-12 with 10 minutes left in the first half the Owls went on a 17-8 run. Valley guard Mariam Asaryan kept her team close, making all of her 15 points on five three-pointers. At halftime the Monarchs were only down by two with a score of 41-39.

The Monarchs came back into the second half with more intensity. They tied the game up at 48 with 12:08 remaining. Valley started to move the ball around better and Orrego continued to make her shots. On defense she caused turnovers for the Owls by taking charges and keeping her team in the game.

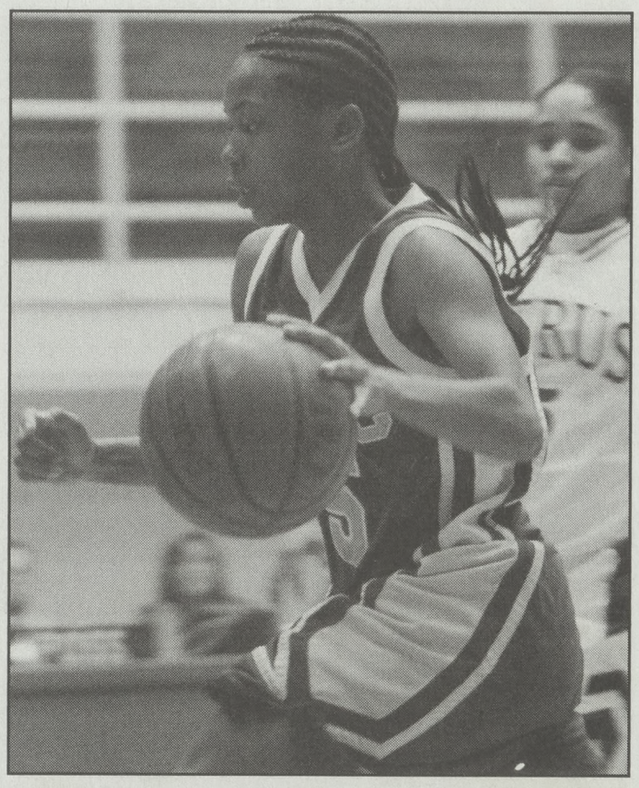
However, the Monarchs had too many turnovers, 22 to be exact, which is still better than the 25 turnovers that Citrus committed and once again they allowed the Owls to slip right past them and penetrate inside for easy shots. With 43 seconds left in the game, it came down to a free throw shooting contest for the Owls and Valley would go on to lose 79-72.

"You can't come from behind in every situation and expect to win," said head coach Ruth Seja. "They have to be ready; they can't [expect to] just show up and win."

Asaryan, who had 15 points and is ranked second in the WSC in three-point shooing added, "We should've won, we always start off slow. We needed to make our lay-ups and our free-throws."

The Monarchs were 15-24 from the charity stripe and made only 26 of their 58 field goals, shooting 44.8 percent in the game. By contrast, the Owls made 13 of their 22 free throws, and shot 65.3 percent from the field. When it comes down to it, the Monarchs defense was lacking energy and their shots just were not falling, causing the loss.

Their next game is Wednesday, Feb. 13 against Bakersfield at Valley. Game time is 5:30 p.m.



JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

JUICED - Valley guard La'Day Venson (5) drives down the court in the Monarchs' 79-72 loss to Citrus College last Saturday.

THE NEXT TWO

Baseball	Basketball	Softball	Swimming & Diving	Track & Field
2/14 @ Moorpark 2 p.m.	2/13 vs Bakersfield W 5:30, M 7:30 p.m.	2/14 @ Oxnard 2:30 p.m.	2/15 JJ's Relays @ Ventura 12 p.m.	2/14 WSC Meet #1 @ Glendale 2 p.m.
2/15 vs Moorpark 2 p.m.	2/16 vs C.O.C. W 5:30, M 7:30 p.m.	2/18 @ Riverside 3 p.m.	2/22 @ C.O.C. 2:30 p.m.	2/23 Cerritos Invitational @ Cerritos 10 a.m.

MARCHING UNITED- Immortals, a martial arts school, carry large banners throughout the parade to welcome the new year.

Juan Robles / Valley Star

Juan Robles / Valley Star

YOUTH- Kim Choi keeps a steady hand while marching in the parade.

Chinatown Welcomes Year of the Rat

By Graciela Salgado
Staff Photographer

I am delighted to have been part of the Chinese New Year's parade for the first time. It brought many cultures together in the heart of Chinatown. That is the beauty of events such as these: the realization that different people can unite and become one, no matter where they come from.

All of us were part of a colorful parade that included important people, such as our mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other politicians that were trying to wish everybody a "Happy New Year" in Chinese.

The Year of the Rat is meant to encourage us all to chase our dreams and ambitions. Whatever the case may be, follow your dreams and attain them because 2008 is the year in which many goals can be accomplished.

Juan Robles / Valley Star

BIG SMILE- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa wishes everyone a happy new year.

Van Trieu / Valley Star

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY- At the end of the parade there is a traditional show of fireworks to welcome the new year.

Juan Robles / Valley Star

ENJOYING THE PARADE- Spectators watch the floats and participants walk towards the entrence of Chinatown.